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a strip interposed between [one] a face of the magnet and at least one of the grooves, the strip being produced from a material which is less hard than the magnet.

2. The alternator as claimed in claim 1, wherein the strip is interposed between the magnet and each of the grooves.

A2 3. (Amended) The alternator as claimed in claim 1 wherein the strip covers [over] one circumferential face of the magnet.

4. The alternator as claimed in claim 3, wherein the circumferential face is oriented in a direction opposite to a shaft of the alternator.

5. The alternator as claimed in claim 1, which comprises two strips interposed between respective opposed faces of the magnet and at least one of the grooves.

Sub B1 6. (Amended) The alternator as claimed in claim 1, wherein the groove profile of each groove is "U"-shaped.

A3 7. (Amended) The alternator as claimed in claim 1, wherein the groove profile of each groove is "V"-shaped, the "V"-shaped groove profile having one branch which is locally parallel to a circumferential face of the poles.

8. (Amended) The alternator as claimed in claim 7, wherein the "V"-shaped groove profile exhibits two branches, the [said] parallel branch being closer to a shaft of the alternator than the other branch.

AB Cont. 9. (Amended) The alternator as claimed in claim 1, [which comprises] further comprising a layer of adhesive which is more flexible than the magnet and is interposed between the strip and the magnet.

10. The alternator as claimed in claim 9, wherein the magnet includes two separate parts bonded to one another by a layer of material which is more flexible than the magnet.

Sub 11. (Amended) The alternator as claimed in claim 10, wherein the [said] material is identical to the [said] adhesive.

12. The alternator as claimed in claim 1, which comprises several magnets, at least two of the magnets being associated with respective strips.

Sub 13. (Amended) The alternator as claimed in claim 12, wherein a majority of the magnets[, preferably all the magnets,] are associated with respective strips.

14. The alternator as claimed in claim 12, wherein the strips of the respective magnets are independent of one another.

Please add the following claims:

Sub 15. (New) The alternator as claimed in claim 1, wherein the strip comprises glass fiber embedded in pre-impregnated plastic.

16. (New) An alternator for a vehicle, the alternator comprising:

a magnet;

two pole pieces having interlaced poles, the poles having grooves profiled along an axis, the magnet interposed in the grooves and between interlaced poles, the groove profile preventing the magnet from escaping the grooves in a plane perpendicular to the axis; and

a first strip of material less hard than the magnet, the first strip interposed between the magnet and at least one of the grooves.

17. (New) The alternator of claim 16 wherein the first strip is interposed between the magnet and each of the grooves.

18. (New) The alternator of claim 16 wherein the first strip covers a circumferential face of the magnet.

19. (New) The alternator of claim 18 wherein the circumferential face is oriented in a direction opposite to a shaft of the alternator.

20. (New) The alternator of claim 16 further comprising a second strip of material, the first strip and the second strip interposed between respective opposed faces of the magnet and at least one of the grooves.

21. (New) The alternator of claim 16 wherein each groove is "U"-shaped.

22. (New) The alternator of claim 16 wherein each groove is "V"-shaped, with one branch of each "V"-shaped groove locally parallel to a circumferential face of the poles.

23. (New) The alternator of claim 22 wherein the branch locally parallel is closer to a shaft of the alternator than the other branch of the "V"-shaped groove.

24. (New) The alternator of claim 16 further comprising a layer of adhesive more flexible than the magnet, the layer of adhesive interposed between the first strip and the magnet.

25. (New) The alternator of claim 24 wherein the magnet includes two separate magnet portions bonded to one another by a layer of material more flexible than each of the magnet portions.

26. (New) The alternator of claim 25 wherein the material of the layer is identical to the adhesive.

27. (New) The alternator of claim 16 comprising a plurality of magnets, at least two of the magnets being associated with respective strips.

28. (New) The alternator of claim 27 wherein the respective strips are independent of each other.

29. (New) The alternator of claim 16 wherein the first strip comprises glass fiber embedded in pre-impregnated plastic.

30. (New) An alternator for a vehicle, the alternator comprising:

a magnet;

two pole pieces having interlaced poles, the poles having grooves profiled along an axis, the magnet interposed in the grooves and between interlaced poles, the groove profile preventing the magnet from escaping the grooves in a plane perpendicular to the axis;